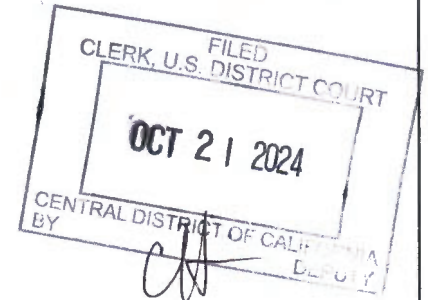


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12 FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

13 IN THE MATTER OF THE
14 EXTRADITION OF

15 MICHAEL ALEJANDRO
16 CASTILLO MURGA,

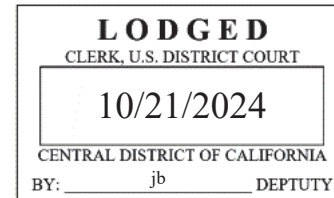
17 A Fugitive from the
18 Government of El Salvador.

No. 2:24-mj-06387-duty

COMPLAINT

FOR ARREST WARRANT AND EXTRADITION
(18 U.S.C. § 3184); ORDER THEREON

(UNDER SEAL)



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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF THE
EXTRADITION OF

MICHAEL ALEJANDRO
CASTILLO MURGA,

A Fugitive from the
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COMPLAINT

FOR ARREST WARRANT AND EXTRADITION
(18 U.S.C. § 3184); ORDER THEREON

(UNDER SEAL)

TO: Honorable Brianna Fuller Mircheff
United States Magistrate Judge
Central District of California

I, John J. Lulejian, being duly sworn, depose and state that I am an Assistant United States Attorney for the Central District of California and act for the United States in fulfilling its obligations to the Government of El Salvador pursuant to the Treaty of Extradition Between the United States of America and El Salvador, U.S.-El Sal., Apr. 18, 1911, 37 Stat. 1516 ("the Treaty"), with respect to the fugitive, MICHAEL ALEJANDRO CASTILLO MURGA ("CASTILLO MURGA"; DOB: **/**/1999).

1 In accordance with Title 18, United States Code, Section 3184, I
2 charge on information and belief as follows:

3 1. Pursuant to the Treaty, which remains in force, El Salvador
4 has submitted a formal request to the United States, through
5 diplomatic channels, for the extradition of CASTILLO MURGA.

6 2. That according to the information provided by El Salvador,
7 CASTILLO MURGA has been charged with one count of Aggravated
8 Femicide,¹ in violation of Article 45(a) and Article 46(c) & (e) of
9 the Special Comprehensive Law for a Life Free of Violence for Women,²
10 and one count of Imperfect Homicide, in violation of Articles 24 and
11 128 of the Penal Code of El Salvador.³

12 3. That on or about June 8, 2019, Judge Jose Enrique Delgado
13 Alfaro of the Peace Court of Concepción de Ataco, a judicial officer
14 authorized by Salvadoran law to issue warrants of arrest, issued a
15 warrant in El Salvador for CASTILLO MURGA's arrest for the above
16 offenses. The warrant remains valid and enforceable.

17 4. That El Salvador presents the following facts as the basis
18 for the complaint and arrest warrant:

19 a. On or about February 1, 2019, Salvadoran authorities
20 discovered the body of a woman, later identified as Melvi Fernanda
21 Najera Quezada ("the adult victim") at the 99-kilometer mark of the
22

23 ¹ "Femicide" is also known as "femicide."

24 ² Article 45 covers the crime of Femicide, which encapsulates
25 murder for reasons of hatred or contempt of the victim as a woman.
26 Femicide is elevated to Aggravated Femicide under Article 46(c) if
27 the crime is committed in the presence of a family member.
Article 46(e) also elevates the charge if the perpetrator is in a
position of superiority due to a position of trust, friendship,
domestic situation, education, or employment.

28 ³ Article 128 covers homicide, and Article 24, "Imperfect
Homicide" covers attempted homicide.

1 highway that runs between Ahuachapán and Sonsonate, El Molino,
2 Municipality of Concepción de Ataco, in El Salvador (the "highway").
3 Three days later, the authorities learned of the discovery of a boy,
4 under the age of two, in the vicinity where the adult victim's body
5 was found. The authorities treated the boy for dehydration and
6 mental health, and later identified him as the son of the adult
7 victim and CASTILLO MURGA (the "minor victim").

8 b. During the course of their investigation, Salvadoran
9 authorities learned the following information about what occurred
10 prior to the above murder from the adult victim's mother:

11 i. CASTILLO MURGA met the adult victim at a
12 political party meeting in or about 2013 and began a romantic
13 relationship with her in or about 2014.

14 ii. In or about 2016, the adult victim became
15 pregnant, and gave birth to the minor victim in or about 2017.

16 iii. The adult victim initially withheld the father's
17 identity from her mother, but introduced CASTILLO MURGA to her mother
18 over a year after their son was born. Although CASTILLO MURGA
19 promised that he would financially support his son, CASTILLO MURGA
20 was inconsistent with his visits, and occasionally left money under a
21 rock outside of his house for the adult victim. CASTILLO MURGA also
22 promised to continue financially supporting his son and urged the
23 adult victim to be patient.

24 iv. In or about January 2019, the adult victim told
25 her mother that she would go with CASTILLO MURGA to a house he had
26 rented, ostensibly for the purpose of living with him as a family.
27 After several delays, on or about January 31, 2019, at approximately
28

1 6:30 p.m., CASTILLO MURGA finally picked up the adult victim and the
2 minor victim from the adult victim's mother's house in a gray car.
3 CASTILLO MURGA parked the car approximately a block from the home,
4 but did not come to get the two victims. Before the adult victim,
5 who was wearing black leggings, left to walk to CASTILLO MURGA's car,
6 the adult victim's mother told her to "take care of the boy," to
7 which the adult victim responded, "mom, I am going with his father,
8 what can happen?"

9 v. The adult victim's mother described CASTILLO
10 MURGA as a young boy of 18 or 19 year's old with white skin, who was
11 thin and tall.

12 c. Salvadoran authorities ordered an autopsy of the adult
13 victim and learned that she died from a massive hemorrhage resulting
14 from lacerations to the veins in her neck, among other wounds caused
15 by a small cutting instrument. Authorities later found a metallic
16 light blue plastic knife at the scene of the crime.

17 d. From mobile telephone records they obtained,
18 Salvadoran authorities determined the following:

19 i. CASTILLO MURGA's cellular telephone registered
20 activity in the adult victim's neighborhood on or about January 31,
21 2019, at approximately 6:20 p.m.

22 ii. On the same day, between approximately 6:44 p.m.
23 and 7:10 p.m., CASTILLO MURGA's cellular telephone was in the area
24 where the victim's body was eventually located.

25 e. Salvadoran investigators learned that two witnesses,
26 who were passing the 99-kilometer mark on the highway, observed a
27
28

1 tall, thin person attacking a woman in black pants or leggings in the
2 back seat of a gray vehicle, while she was kicking and screaming.

3 f. Authorities analyzed WhatsApp messages and calls on or
4 about January 31, 2019, between the telephones belonging to CASTILLO
5 MURGA and his girlfriend, J.A.M.H., and learned the following:

6 i. Between approximately 6:47 p.m. and 7:03 p.m.,
7 CASTILLO MURGA ignored messages and calls from J.A.M.H.

8 ii. At approximately 7:03 p.m., CASTILLO MURGA
9 responded by sending a photograph of himself covered with blood
10 stains on his face and neck.

11 iii. Approximately three minutes later, CASTILLO
12 MURGA, in a scared and agitated tone, left an audio message informing
13 J.A.M.H. that he would call her soon.

14 iv. In later Whatsapp messages to J.A.M.H., CASTILLO
15 MURGA admitted to having killed a person.

16 g. Telephone records obtained by Salvadoran authorities
17 reveal that on January 31, 2019, J.A.M.H.'s telephone called CASTILLO
18 MURGA's grandmother's telephone, between approximately 7:03 p.m. and
19 7:19 p.m.

20 h. Based on their investigation, Salvadoran authorities
21 believe that after CASTILLO MURGA killed the adult victim, he
22 abandoned the minor victim at the site of the adult victim's murder.
23 Approximately four days later, farm workers discovered the minor
24 victim and contacted the police unsure if the abandoned child was
25 dead or alive. Authorities transferred the minor victim to the
26 Hospital Nacional of Ahuachapán, conducted several examinations of
27 his injuries, and determined that the child was in a state of severe
28

1 dehydration and starvation and showed signs of child abuse. He also
2 had facial lacerations, dry lips and nose, and insect bites.
3 Authorities concluded that the physical and environmental conditions
4 of the rugged area where the minor victim was found had put the
5 child's life at risk.

6 i. Salvadoran authorities also learned that CASTILLO
7 MURGA and others attempted to conceal the death of the adult victim
8 and the abandonment of minor victim:

9 i. From the site of the murder, CASTILLO MURGA drove
10 to his grandmother's home where she assisted him in making a number
11 of telephone calls. One of the people that CASTILLO MURGA's
12 grandmother contacted was a cooperating witness ("CW 1"). She
13 arranged for CW 1 and another person ("CW 2") to meet at her house.

14 ii. When both cooperating witnesses arrived at
15 CASTILLO MURGA's grandmother's house, they saw CASTILLO MURGA's gray,
16 four-door, Mitsubishi Lancer, which was the car CASTILLO MURGA always
17 drove. Both witnesses also observed that CASTILLO MURGA was covered
18 in blood. CW 1 observed that CASTILLO MURGA was wearing black pants,
19 a black shirt, and black tennis shoes with white stripes.

20 iii. A lawyer and J.A.M.H. also met CASTILLO MURGA at
21 his grandmother's house.

22 iv. At his grandmother's house, CASTILLO MURGA
23 admitted to his grandmother, CW 1, J.A.M.H., and the lawyer that he
24 had killed a woman by "the Molino," a street that leads to Concepción
25 de Ataco, and that he had killed her in self-defense as she had
26 wanted to kill him first. When asked for details by the lawyer,
27 CASTILLO MURGA claimed that he had picked up the adult victim in his
28

1 car and she had asked him to take her to Concepción de Ataco,
2 however, midway through the journey, the woman told him to stop his
3 car. He alleged that she told him she had to kill him and then
4 killed her son before attacking CASTILLO MURGA with a knife.
5 CASTILLO MURGA then stated that he managed to take the knife from her
6 and kill her instead in self-defense. When his grandmother asked how
7 he killed the woman, CASTILLO MURGA showed how he stabbed her in the
8 neck and stomach and told her that he left her around a place called
9 El molino.

10 v. His grandmother discussed hiding CASTILLO MURGA,
11 while J.A.M.H. searched his car and found a cellular telephone.
12 J.A.M.H. and CASTILLO MURGA's grandmother discussed disposing of the
13 telephone and anything else incriminating found in the car and
14 instructed CW 1 to burn evidence. Both CW 1 and CW 2 also saw the
15 victim's Personal Identity Document and remember that her name was
16 "Melvi Quezada." CASTILLO MURGA's grandmother and the lawyer then
17 repeated the instruction to burn what was found in the car.

18 vi. The lawyer told CASTILLO MURGA that he had to be
19 "taken out," and the lawyer then pulled his car inside the garage and
20 placed CASTILLO MURGA in the back seat. CASTILLO MURGA joined her
21 grandson and the lawyer in the car and instructed CW 1 and CW 2 to
22 take care of the house and that the lawyer would tell them what to do
23 in case of any inconvenience.

24 vii. Twenty minutes after CASTILLO MURGA left in the
25 lawyer's car, his grandmother called CW 1 and told him that there was
26 a black bag containing CASTILLO MURGA's clothes. CASTILLO MURGA's
27 grandmother instructed him to burn the bag. J.A.M.H. was in the
28

1 bedroom where the bag was located, and they discussed the identity of
2 the woman that CASTILLO MURGA killed. J.A.M.H. then showed CW 1 the
3 picture CASTILLO MURGA sent her on WhatsApp of him covered in blood.

4 viii. CASTILLO MURGA's grandmother and the lawyer
5 later instructed CW 1 and CW 2 to wash CASTILLO MURGA's car, because
6 there was blood in both the interior and exterior of the vehicle.
7 Although CW 1 and CW 2 washed CASTILLO MURGA's car with water, car
8 shampoo, and vinegar, they were not able to remove all of the blood
9 in the car.

10 5. According to the Salvadoran Directorate of Migration
11 Control, CASTILLO MURGA left El Salvador, on foot, for Guatemala,
12 using his United States passport (No. *****2403) at the San Cristobal
13 Border Checkpoint on or about February 2, 2019.

14 6. U.S. law enforcement believes that CASTILLO MURGA may be
15 found within the jurisdiction:

16 a. California Department of Motor Vehicles records reveal
17 "Michael Alejandro Murga" obtained a driver's license (No. ****3398)
18 on or about September 29, 2023. As of September 29, 2023, the
19 address associated with this driver's license appears to be a
20 residence in Fontana, California. However, as of June 26, 2024, the
21 mailing address associated with this driver's license appears to be a
22 residence in Beaumont, California. Further, the date of birth
23 associated with this driver's license matches the date of birth
24 stated in the extradition request.

25 b. Insurance records reveal that "Michael A. Murga" or
26 "Lester A. Murga" is the registered owner of a 2023 Mazda, bearing
27 California license plate number ***G375. The address associated with
28

1 both registered owner is the same address in Beaumont associated with
2 the above driver's license.

3 c. Law enforcement determined that prior to August 2024,
4 CASTILLO MURGA was employed by the Yaamava' Resort & Casino at
5 Highland, California, within this District.

6 d. On or about October 18, 2024, the United States
7 Marshals Service traveled to the above address in Beaumont. Using a
8 ruse, a Deputy United States Marshal rang the doorbell and was
9 greeted by a man who bore a striking resemblance to "Michael
10 Alejandro Murga's" driver's license photograph.

11 7. Noah L. Browne, an attorney in the Office of the Legal
12 Adviser of the U.S. Department of State, has provided the U.S.
13 Department of Justice with a declaration authenticating a copy of the
14 diplomatic note by which the request for extradition was made and a
15 copy of the Treaty, stating that the offense for which extradition is
16 demanded is provided for by the Treaty, and confirming that the
17 documents supporting the request for extradition are properly
18 certified by the principal U.S. diplomatic or consular officer in
19 Mexico, in accordance with 18 U.S.C. § 3190, so as to enable them to
20 be received into evidence.

21 8. The declaration from the U.S. Department of State with its
22 attachments, including a copy of the diplomatic note from El
23 Salvador, a copy of the Treaty, and copies of the certified documents
24 El Salvador's submitted in support of the request are attached to the
25 Request for Certification of Extradition, filed separately and
26 contemporaneously with this complaint and incorporated by reference
27 herein.

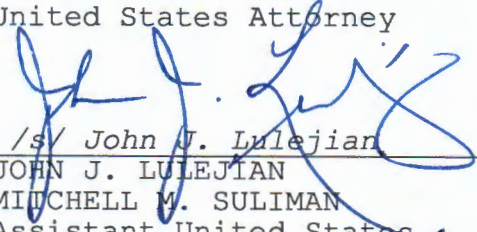
1 9. That CASTILLO MURGA is likely to flee if he learns of the
2 existence of a warrant for his arrest.

3 WHEREFORE, the undersigned complainant requests that a warrant
4 for the arrest of CASTILLO MURGA be issued in accordance with 18
5 U.S.C. § 3184 and the extradition treaty between the United States
6 and Mexico, so that CASTILLO MURGA may be arrested and brought before
7 this Court to the end that the evidence of criminality may be heard
8 and considered, and that this complaint and the warrant be placed
9 under the seal of the Court, except as disclosure is needed for its
10 execution, until such time as the warrant is executed.

11
12 DATED: This 21st day of October, 2024, at Los Angeles, California.

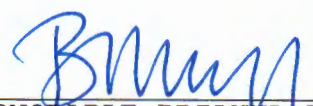
13
14 Respectfully submitted,

15 E. MARTIN ESTRADA
16 United States Attorney

17 
18 /s/ John J. Lulejian
19 JOHN J. LULEJIAN
20 MITCHELL M. SULIMAN
21 Assistant United States
22 Attorneys

23 Attorneys for Complainant
24 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

25 Subscribed and sworn to by
26 the applicant on this 21 day of
27 October, 2024.

28 
HONORABLE BRIANNA FULLER MIRCHEFF
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE